Gap between demand and production of fertilizers

*159. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last three years there has been a gap between the production and the demand of fertilizers which had to be met by heavy imports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Fertilizers are imported to bridge the gap between the assessed requirement and indigenous availability; there was progressive decline in the level of imports during the last three years;

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Demand, productrion gap and imports during the last three years:-

(in lakh tonnes of nutrients)

DEMAND (CONSUMPTION) (N+P+K)	YEAR	PRODUCTION (N+P)	GAP (N+P+K)	IMPORTS (N+P+K)	REMARKS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
84.74	1985-86	57.56	27.18	33.99	Including provision
87.38	1986-87	70.70	16.68	23.10	for pipeline stocks
90.11	1987-88	71.31	18.80	9.84	Imports were less on account of large carry forward stocks of Urea due to quantum jump in production coupled with successive droughts during the preceding years.

Cultivation of Khejri Trees on Barren Sand Dunes

*160. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the barren sand dunes could be turned productive by cultivating Propsopis Cinenaria commonly known as the Khejri tree; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Arid Zone Research Institute, (CAZRI) Jodhpur has done pioneering work in sand dune stabilisation and afforestation. The silvipastoral system has been found to be the most appropriate for making sand dunes productive. The technique consists of afforestation by direct seeding and by transplanting of nursery raised seedlings. The tree species found suitable for sand dune stabilisation are Khejri (Prosopis Cineraria) and Israeli babul (Acacia tortilis). Sewan grass (Lasiurus sindicus) has been found to be the most suitable grass species. The Institute has also demonstrated successful aerial seeding programme with these plant species for stabilisation of sand dunes.

Maintenance and after care of stabilised sand dune is necessary. Rigid protection from biotic interference is needed for 10 years. Grasses may be harvested after second year at post seeding stages.

The sand dune stabilisation technology developed by the CAZRI is being widely adopted by the Rajasthan Forest Department and Desert Development Department. Nearly 93,500 hectare have been covered under sand dune stabilization and pasture development.

Drought assistance for Madhya Pradesh

† 1123.SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has demanded Rs.88.3 crores from the Central Government for meeting the drought situation in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have sought details as to how this amount will be spent; and

(c) what are the districts in the State where this amount is to be spent and how much has already been spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Madhya Pradesh in their Memoranda sought Central assistance of Rs. 88.03 crores for drought relief.

(b) and (c) As per information received from Government of Madhya Pradesh, Rs.48.61 crores has been spent on Employment Generation Programmes and Drinking Water Scheme from April to December, 1988 in the districts of Rewa, Sahdol, Sidhi, Satna, Raipur, Durg and Rajnandgaon where crop failure has been reported.

Grant of Licences for the import of Seeds

@1124. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the new liberalised seed import policy as many as 113 Indian companies have registered for import licences as appeared in 'India Today' of February, 1989 edition under the Article 'Seeds';

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in affirmative, what are the names and addresses of the companies/firms and or individuals which/who have applied for

† Previously unstarred question 244 transferred from the 23rd February, 1989.

@ Previously Unstarred Question 245 transferred from the 23rd February, 1989.